

PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

That the allowance of ardent spirits to soldiers on fatigue duty may be discontinued.

MAY 7, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable Senators and Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The undersigned, officers of the United States army, beg leave to
RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT :

That, in their opinion, the substitution of sugar and coffee for the whiskey part of the ration allowed to soldiers, has been productive of great good to the service, and also the means of preserving the health, efficiency, and happiness, and frequently effecting the moral reformation of that part of our army.

And sincerely believing that the gill of whiskey still allowed to men on fatigue duty, by the act of Congress, passed 2d March, 1819, not only fails to answer the end for which it was granted, but contributes, in a great degree, to form and keep alive habits of intemperance, the legitimate results of which are insubordination, disease, and crime, we, therefore, respectfully and ardently petition your honorable body to repeal so much of said act as relates to the subject.

L. A. BIRDSALL,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.
A. G. BLANCHARD,
1st Lieut. 3d Reg. U. S. Infy.
J. H. EATON,
2d Lieut. 3d Infy., U. S. A.

CAMP ON SABINE LAKE, LA.,
February 25, 1838.

Blair & Rives, printers.

